

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implant insertion device comprising:
an insertion rod having a longitudinal axis; and
an implant gripper attached to said insertion rod, said implant gripper including:
a v-shaped gripping surface intersecting the longitudinal axis of the insertion rod;
a first pin extending from and fixed relative to said v-shaped gripping surface; and
a second pin extending through and movable relative to said v-shaped gripping surface
between a first position wherein the second pin extends from the v-shaped gripping surface a
distance x and a second position wherein the second pin extends a distance less than x from the
v-shaped gripping surface,
wherein said first pin and said second pin are offset on said v-shaped gripping surface
and extend in a non-parallel manner.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The insertion device of claim 1, wherein said first pin and said
second pin are offset on said gripping surface by an angle of approximately 30 degrees.
4. (Previously Presented) The insertion device of claim 1, wherein said first pin and said
second pin are smooth.
5. (Previously Presented) The insertion device of claim 1, wherein said implant gripper
is removable from said insertion rod.
6. (Withdrawn) A method of engaging an implant with an implant insertion device
according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) retracting the second pin relative to the gripping surface of the implant insertion
device;
 - (b) positioning the implant adjacent to the gripping surface such that the first pin
extending from the gripping surface extends into an insertion pin hole of the implant; and

(c) extending the second pin relative to the gripping surface such that the second pin extends into a second insertion pin hole of the implant, thereby effectively reversibly locking the implant onto said device.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of
(a) retracting the second pin of the implant gripper from the insertion pin hole of the implant; and
(b) moving the gripping surface away from the implant such that the first pin is removed from the second insertion pin hole of the implant and the implant insertion device is disengaged from the implant device.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of insertion of an implant with an implant insertion device according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching the implant to the implant insertion device by retracting the second pin relative to the gripping surface of the implant insertion device; positioning the implant adjacent to the gripping surface such that the first pin extending from the gripping surface extends into an insertion pin hole of the implant, and extending the second pin relative to the gripping surface such that the second pin extends into a second insertion pin hole of the implant;
(b) inserting said implant in a spinal column; and
(c) detaching said implant from said implant insertion device by retracting said second pin from said second insertion pin hole of said implant, and detaching said first pin of said implant gripper from said insertion pin hole of the implant.

9. (Withdrawn) An implant insertion assembly comprising:
an implant insertion device according to claim 1; and
an implant comprising an outer sidewall which defines one or more insertion pin holes configured to receive the first and second pins.

10. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said insertion pin holes include a counter bore cut.

11. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein the implant outer sidewall includes at least two flat sidewall portions and first and second insertion pin holes are defined along the respective flat sidewall portions.

12. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said implant includes a superior end face and an inferior end face and one or both of said superior end face and said inferior end face include a plurality of radial cuts.

13. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of radial cuts are tiered.

14. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said implant includes a superior end face and an inferior end face and one or both of said superior end face and said inferior end face include a plurality of concentric cuts.

15. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of concentric cuts are tiered.

16. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said implant includes a superior end face and an inferior end face and one or both of said superior end face and said inferior end face include a plurality of concentric cuts and a plurality of radial cuts.

17. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said implant defines a hollow core.

18. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said implant is a biocompatible material.

19. (Withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said implant insertion device is a biocompatible material.

20. (Currently Amended) An implant insertion device comprising:
an insertion rod having a longitudinal axis; and
an implant gripper extending from said insertion rod, said implant gripper including:
an implant gripping surface intersecting the longitudinal axis of the insertion rod;
a first pin extending from and fixed relative to said implant gripping surface; and

a second pin extending through and movable relative to said implant gripping surface, said second pin being substantially aligned with said longitudinal axis of said insertion rod and non-parallel to said first pin.

21. (Currently Amended) An implant insertion device comprising:
a handle having a gripping surface;
an insertion rod extending from said handle, said insertion rod defining a longitudinal axis;
an implant gripper extending from said insertion rod, said implant gripper including:
an implant gripping surface intersecting the longitudinal axis of the insertion rod;
a first pin extending from and fixed relative to said implant gripping surface; and
a second pin extending through and movable relative to said implant gripping surface, said second pin being substantially aligned with said longitudinal axis of said insertion rod and non-parallel to said first pin; and
an actuator positioned proximal to said handle for moving the ~~first~~ second pin relative to said v-shaped gripping surface.